

Application No. 10/750,253  
Amendment dated May 1, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of February 2, 2006

**Recitation of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, the disposable absorbent garment further comprising:

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter forms two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges;

wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter; and

an absorbent assembly attached to the exterior surface of the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer, and wherein the topsheet layer and barrier layer have lateral extensions that are C-folded or Z-folded.

2. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

3. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

4. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

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5. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.
6. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment and the crotch piece is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.
7. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.
8. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, the disposable absorbent garment further including an outer layer.
9. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 8, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, wherein the outer layer perimeter is bonded to the elastic inner layer perimeter.
10. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 8, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
11. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal side edges of the elastic inner layer form leg cuffs.

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12. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal side edges of the topsheet layer and the barrier layer are gathered and form leg cuffs.

13. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer has an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein the exterior surface in the front waist region comprises a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge; and wherein the interior surface in the back waist region comprises a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge.

14. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 13, wherein the front waist region fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

15. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 13, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

16. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 15, wherein the front waist region fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

17. (original) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, the disposable absorbent garment further comprising:

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter forms two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges;

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wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter and wherein the elastic inner layer has an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a front ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the front waist region, wherein the front ear portion has an interior surface and an exterior surface, and wherein the front ear portion comprises a fastener on the exterior surface;

a back ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the back waist region, wherein the back ear portion has an interior surface and an exterior surface, and wherein the back ear portion comprises a fastener on the interior surface; and

an absorbent assembly attached to the exterior surface of the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer.

18. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

19. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

20. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

21. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

22. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is

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attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment and the crotch piece is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

23. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.

24. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, the disposable absorbent garment further including an outer layer.

25. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 24, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, wherein the outer layer perimeter is bonded to the elastic inner layer perimeter.

26. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 24, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

27. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal side edges of the elastic inner layer form leg cuffs.

28. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal side edges of the topsheet layer and the barrier layer are gathered and form leg cuffs.

29. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the front ear portion fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

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30. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 17, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

31. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 30, wherein the front ear portion fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

32. (previously presented) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, the disposable absorbent garment further comprising:

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter forms two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges;

wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer has an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein the front waist region comprises a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge and adapted to engage into the elastic inner layer of the garment in the back waist region; and wherein the back waist region comprises a fastener located laterally inward of each longitudinal side edge and adapted to engage into an outer layer of the garment in the front waist region;

an absorbent assembly attached to the exterior surface of the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer;

wherein the longitudinal side edges of the inner elastic layer form leg cuffs; and

wherein the outer layer overlays the absorbent assembly and the exterior surface of the elastic inner layer.

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33. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

34. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

35. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

36. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

37. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment and the crotch piece is elastic in the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment.

38. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.

39. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, the disposable absorbent garment further including an outer layer.

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40. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 39, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, wherein the outer layer perimeter is bonded to the elastic inner layer perimeter.

41. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 39, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.

42. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the front waist region fastener has a crotch-to-fastener angle equal to or greater than 45 degrees.

43. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 32, wherein the front waist region has a front center panel length of equal to or less than 6 inches.

44. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 43, wherein the front waist region fastener has a length equal to or less than the front center panel length.

45. (original) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction and including a front waist region, a back waist region and a crotch region that connects the front waist region and the back waist region, the disposable absorbent garment further comprising:

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter forms two longitudinal side edges and two lateral waist edges and wherein the elastic inner layer is elastic in both the longitudinal direction and the lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment;



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wherein the elastic inner layer defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment;

wherein the elastic inner layer has an interior surface and an exterior surface;

a front ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the front waist region, wherein the front ear portion has an interior surface and an exterior surface, and wherein the front ear portion comprises a fastener on the exterior surface;

a back ear portion bonded to each longitudinal side edge in the back waist region, wherein the back ear portion has an interior surface and an exterior surface, and wherein the back ear portion comprises a fastener on the interior surface;

an absorbent assembly attached to the exterior surface of the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer; and

wherein the longitudinal side edges of the inner elastic layer form leg cuffs.